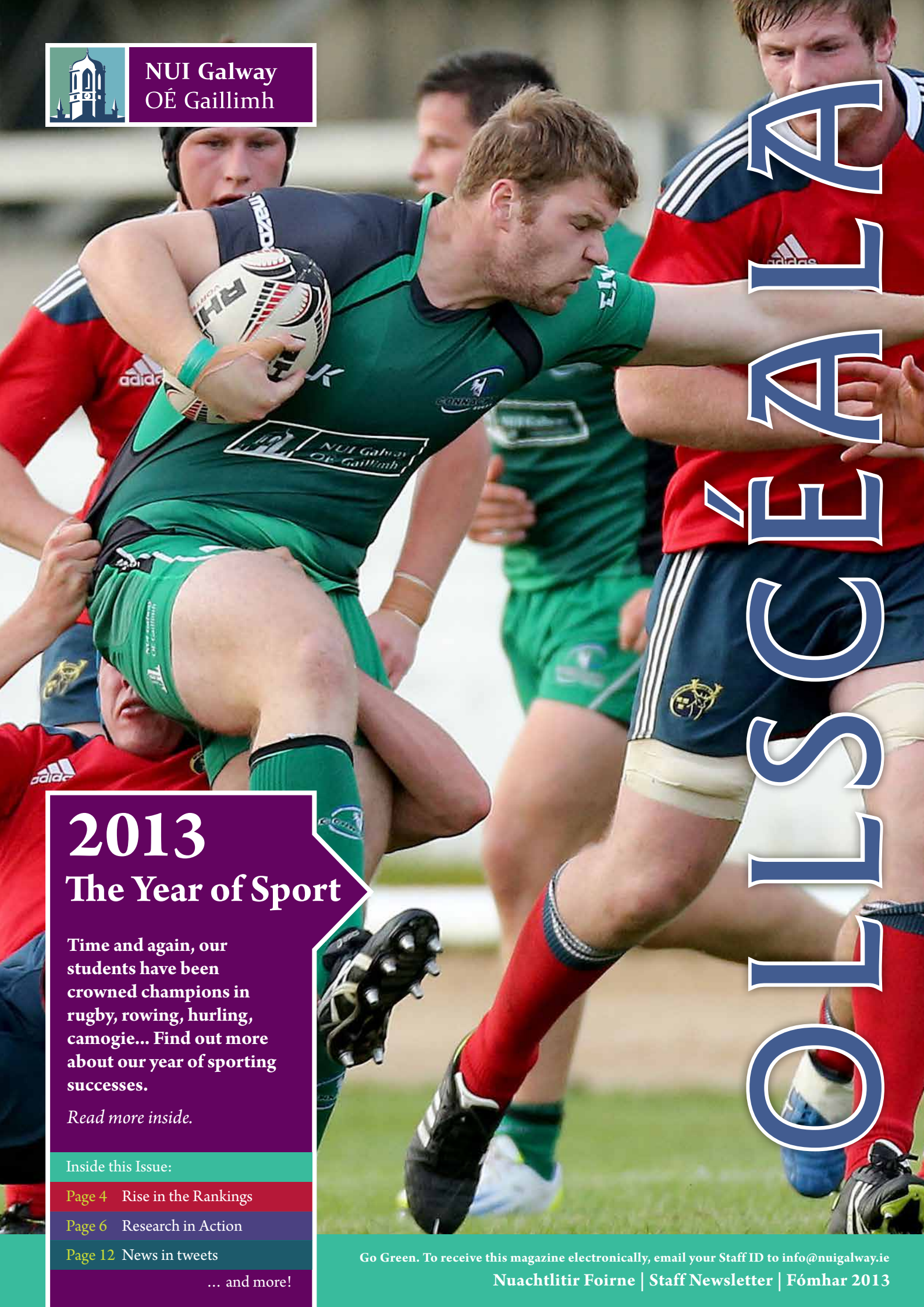




NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



RELEASES

2013 The Year of Sport

Time and again, our students have been crowned champions in rugby, rowing, hurling, camogie... Find out more about our year of sporting successes.

Read more inside.

Inside this Issue:

Page 4 Rise in the Rankings

Page 6 Research in Action

Page 12 News in tweets

... and more!

Go Green. To receive this magazine electronically, email your Staff ID to info@nuigalway.ie

Nuachtlitir Foirne | Staff Newsletter | Fómhar 2013

OLLSCÉALA

Focal ón Uachtarán



A Chairde,

Tús maith, leath na hoibre... This academic year is off to an encouraging start with the good news of NUI Galway's increased position in the global rankings.

Rankings

Earlier this month NUI Galway was one of only three Irish universities to move up the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings for 2013-14. With an increase of 22 places, NUI Galway is now placed 314th in these rankings.

In September, the University increased its position to 284th in the QS World University Rankings 2013/2014. NUI Galway is now the only Irish university to increase its position in the two main international rankings.

This builds on the announcement earlier in the year, that NUI Galway was ranked in the top 200 universities in the world in five subject areas in the

QS World University Subject Rankings, in the areas of:

- English Language & Literature
- History
- Computer Science and Info Systems
- Pharmacy & Pharmacology
- Law

Taken together, these three measures represent great news for NUI Galway. They confirm that our position globally is on the rise and that we are succeeding in our efforts to achieve international recognition in selected priority areas.

Some of you will know that I maintain a healthy scepticism towards these ranking systems, but nonetheless, I believe that our enhanced position is an affirmation of our focused approach to developing an international reputation in a select set of research areas. It also reflects a spirit of ambition, hard work and commitment on the part of many colleagues across the University. Thank you for your efforts to further develop the reputation of NUI Galway globally.

Global Irish Economic Forum

Many of you will be familiar with the Government's initiative to engage with the Irish diaspora through the Global Irish Economic Forum, held in Farmleigh in 2009 and 2011. In a new departure this year the Forum featured Regional Roundtable discussions with members of the Global Irish Network and local stakeholders from the worlds of business, culture, academia and civic society, prior to its two-day session in Dublin.

NUI Galway hosted the Galway Regional Roundtable and I was delighted to welcome four members of the Global Irish Network as panellists: Dr Irial Finan (Coca Cola), Aedhmar Hynes (Text 100), Dr Gerald Lawless (Jumeirah Group) and Dr Martin McCourt (Gemalto).

Amongst the panel we had distinguished alumni and honorary graduates, members of the US Board of Galway University Foundation, all moderated by well-known national broadcaster and medical alumnus, Dr Gavin Jennings.

Among the themes discussed were the re-building of Ireland's economic reputation; the importance of the university sector; the skill needs of the Irish

Familiar Faces



1. Lorraine Higgins (Labour Senator), Harry McGee (Irish Times journalist) and Rónán Mullen (Independent NUI Senator) take part in a heated debate on the Seanad referendum, organised by the University's Dublin Alumni Association.

2. Bríd Ní Mhaoleoin, President Higgins, artist Manfred Url and his son Oisín at the opening of an exhibition of Url's work in Áras Éanna, Inis Oírr. The painting, entitled *Ar m'anam!*, has been purchased by the University. To view the University's art collection online, visit nuigalway.ie/arts_office/art_database

3. Olympic gold medal winner for Kenya and 800m world record holder David Rudisha (right) signs autographs for fans at the recent Galway Kenya Run on campus. Rudisha was later joined by legendary athletics coach Br Colm O'Connell (pictured in background) for a Q&A session in the Bailey Allen Hall.

Front cover photograph: Inpho

workforce; and the ways in which the diaspora can support Ireland's national development.

This wide-ranging and interesting discussion is available to view on <http://nuigalway.ie/live/>

President's Awards for Teaching Excellence

Later this month I will present six outstanding teachers with their Awards for Teaching Excellence:

- Dr Rebecca Barr, School of Humanities
- Dr Mary Fleming, School of Education
- Dr Séamus McGuire, School of Medicine / Letterkenny Medical Academy
- Team Award: French Final Year Teaching Team: Dr Sylvie Lannegrand (Lead), Dr Philip Dine, Dr Éamon Ó Cofaigh

The winners will be presented with their Awards at the conferring ceremonies in October and November. Congratulations to these dedicated teachers!

Strategic Plan

We have made significant progress as a University over the last five years. Thanks to your tremendous efforts, we have created a platform of success which allows us to be ambitious in our planning for the next five years. This achievement is all the more

admirable when set against the backdrop of budget cuts, continuous reductions in staffing levels, increased workloads and salary cuts.

Looking forward now to the next chapter of the University's development, we will begin a new phase of strategic planning which will cover the period up to 2020. Our new Strategic Plan 2015-2020 will build upon the success we achieved during the period of our current plan which expires next year.

It is clear that the environment in which we will operate over the course of the next five years will be challenging, but presents opportunities too, to move in new directions, to explore new ideas. The new Plan will require a confident and innovative approach and it is vital that all staff have the opportunity to input your ideas to the planning process.

The process for creating the new Strategic Plan will involve an Oversight Group, led by the UMT, to which a series of subgroups will report. Details

of these subgroups are available at <https://staff.intranet.nuigalway.ie/Pages/Creating-Strategic-Plan-2015-2020.aspx>

All staff will have an opportunity to contribute to the development of our strategic plan, in the months ahead and I strongly encourage each of you to avail of the opportunity. The new Strategic Plan will be presented to Údarás na hOllscoile in October, 2014, followed by publication and launch shortly thereafter.

Tá mé ag súil le bliain ghnóthach agus bliain thorthúil amach romhainn agus muid ag obair le chéile chun mórán tionscadail a thabhairt chun críche. I continue to be inspired by colleagues who consistently show their passion and commitment to enhancing NUI Galway's reputation and performance.

Beir bua agus beannacht,

James J. Browne PhD, DSc, MRIA, C.Eng
Uachtarán – President



Tá Focal ón Uachtarán le fáil ar líne agus go dátheangach: nuigalway.ie/president/reports.html

Appointments

Internal Appointments

Professor Rhodri Ceredig (School of Medicine and REMEDI) has been appointed as the new Director of the National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science (NCBES) for the next two years. We wish him well in the post vacated by Professor Frank Barry.

Professor Pat Dolan (UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement) has been appointed Director of the International Institute for the Social Sciences. The new institute aims to promote further the University's prominence and expertise in the field of Social Sciences.

External Appointments

Dr John Breslin (Engineering and Informatics) has been appointed to the board of directors of the American Council on Exercise. ACE is the largest non-profit fitness certification, education and training organisation in the world, with over 50,000 certified professionals.

Professor Stefan Decker, Professor of Digital Enterprise, has been appointed to the Board of Informatics Europe, the association of computer science departments and research labs in Europe.

Professorships

A Professorship was granted in July to:

Professor Gary O'Donohue,
Established Professor of Psychology

Farewell, Father Diarmuid

After 16 years as Chaplain, **Fr Diarmuid Hogan** (top) has left the University to become parish priest for Oranmore. A well-known character around campus, Fr Diarmuid constantly looked to attract new audiences to the Chaplaincy, promoting its services and message through social media. A lasting legacy to his time in the University is the Memorial Garden beside Áras de Brún, which marks those staff and students who passed away while working and studying here. We welcome our new chaplain **Fr Barry Horan** (bottom) to his new post. No stranger to the University, Fr Horan studied first year Commerce here before entering the priesthood.





HARDIMAN BUILDING OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The hoarding is removed, the surroundings have been landscaped, and now the new residents of the Hardiman Building have begun to move in. The building, which incorporates the James Hardiman Library and the new Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Research Building, is humming with activity.

The new three-storey-over-basement building offers a unique research environment, rich in opportunities to collaborate, discover and generate new knowledge and to celebrate research.

Library Treasures

In late July, the Library's Research Services team moved in, and the Archives and Special Collections team (pictured right) have been particularly busy settling into their new home. A real highlight is the impressive Reading Room where researchers can exploit fully the treasures in the Library's archives. The preservation of these unique materials is vital, and three temperature-controlled stores at basement level provide the right environment. The Abbey Theatre Digital Archive - the world's largest theatre archive digitization project - will shortly be accessible in the new building. Expert staff are on hand to enable the full use of all archives and special collections.

Up for Award

The Hardiman Building has been shortlisted for the Engineering Project of the Year, in the Engineers Ireland Excellence Awards. These awards recognise the highest quality of design and construction in the country, and the four other shortlisted projects include An Post's new automated system and EirGrid's new east-west connector. This category is voted on by the public, so make sure to cast your vote for the latest attraction on campus.

Welcoming Service

In September, a brand new integrated Library and IT Service Desk was opened in the refurbished foyer of the James Hardiman Library. The new Service Desk is the first point of call for all staff and students giving first level advice and support on Library and IT services. Feedback on the new desk has been extremely positive with students commenting on how 'modern and welcoming' it is.



NUI Galway Rises in Two World Rankings

We've done it again. The University has increased its rankings in both the QS and Times Higher Education (THE) World Rankings. And we are the only Irish University to do so. NUI Galway is now ranked 284th in the world according to QS, and 314th according to THE. Reacting to the announcements, President Jim Browne said: "Despite significant cuts in funding at third-level in Ireland and a continued rise in student numbers, our university has gone against the tide to secure a marked improvement in these very competitive rankings. This is a testament to our high standards in teaching and research, and an affirmation of our very focused approach to developing an international reputation in a select set of research areas."

Global Irish Come to Galway

In early October, the University hosted a Regional Roundtable as part of the Global Irish Economic Forum. The focus of this year's forum was firmly on job creation, and members of the Global Irish Network discussed opportunities for boosting employment in a wide range of sectors with SMEs from the West region and the academic community. The Galway event included a public forum moderated by NUI Galway graduate Dr Gavin Jennings of RTÉ, with participation from business leaders including fellow graduates Irial Finan, Executive Vice President of Coca-Cola, and Aedhmar Hynes, CEO of Text100, along with Gerald Lawless, President of Jumeirah Group, and Martin McCourt, Executive Vice-President of Gemalto.

Vote now at: www.engineersireland.ie/Awards/Excellence-Awards/Engineering-Project-of-the-Year.aspx



This year's victorious Galway Senior Camogie team.

THE YEAR OF SPORT

What an incredible year for sport in the University. From Croke Park classics, to routs in rowing, our students have done us proud on pitches, courts and rivers across the country.

GAA

Widely regarded as the most entertaining year of hurling in decades, our students were active right up to the end. Twelve current and former students were on the **Clare Senior hurling panel** for the All-Ireland finals against Cork. No fewer than 16 players with links to the University were involved in the three **All-Ireland Camogie finals**, on the Galway, Kilkenny, Kildare and Limerick panels. Current students in the Senior camogie final included Sports Scholarship holders Niamh McGrath (for Galway) and Aisling Dunphy (for Kilkenny). The **Mayo Senior football team** defeated in the All-Ireland Final included seven current and former players; and James Nallen, one of the selectors on the Mayo side, is a Chief Technical Officer in the School of Physics. Scholarship student, Kevin Downes, was part of the Limerick attack that won the **Munster Hurling final**, while alumnus, Mark Gottsche, was a key player for London in their remarkable run to the **Connacht Football final**. The University also had a number of players win **All-Ireland U21** titles in football with Galway and in hurling with Clare.

RUGBY

The men's rugby team hosted and won the **Irish Universities Rugby Union junior intervarsity** competition, beating UCC in the final. Meanwhile, staff have been helping to train the University's **underage Rugby Academy**, which have had great success at U13 and U14 age levels. The biggest development for the sport this year has been the new **high performance partnership with Connacht Rugby**. The partnership is aimed at further developing the sporting, academic, research and educational links with the University. Several current students already play on the **Connacht U19 and U20 teams**, with first year Commerce particularly well represented (including Jack Dineen, who you can see breaking through the Munster defence on the front cover.)



ROWING

The University dominated at the **National Rowing Championships** again this year. For the fifth time in six years, the NUI Galway Boat club and its sister alumni club Gráinne Mhaol won the Men's Senior 8 competition – the blue riband event – at the National Rowing Centre in Cork. Gráinne Mhaol also took the Senior 4 title, and Niall Kenny won the Men's Lightweight Single event. There were further wins in the Inter 8 by the men's crew, and in the Senior Women's event. These successes were quickly followed by the **World U23 Championships** in Linz, Austria, where five NUI Galway rowers competed: Robert O'Callaghan and Richard Bennett (Men's Coxless 4); Aifric Keogh (Women's Coxless 4); and Seán O'Connor and Fionnan McQuillan-Tolan (Men's Pair). NUI Galway Boat Club coach, Dave Mannion, also coached the Women's 4 at the championships.

OTHER SPORTS

Darren Wallace broke the Irish **U23 and Universities Archery** records in 2013. Our varsity team continued to dominate the sport at university level in Ireland.

The **NUIG Mystics** played their first season in Division 1 of the Women's National League defeating defending champions Tralee in the first game of the 2013/14 season.

The University launched a **partnership with Swim Ireland** and the Kingfisher club to be the location for one of Swim Ireland's four National Performance centres. Two of the scholarship students training in the centre, Dairne Ryan and Kevin McGlade, won medals for the first time at the national Senior championships and represented Ireland at the Celtic Nations International meeting.

Des Leonard won his second **World Junior Kickboxing title** and at Senior level followed up last year's silver with a bronze at the 2013 World Championships in Romania. While former NUI Galway student Diarmuid Nash followed up his **World U23 Handball title** by winning the Irish Nationals in 2013 and reaching the semi-final of the US Open.

Our Men's Soccer team won the **Spillane Cup**, and Joe Woods and Martin Conneely were capped by the Irish Universities side. Jennifer Byrne was part of the Castlebar Celtic team that were unlucky losers of the **Women's FAI Cup final** to Peamount Celtic.

The **Women's Hockey** team won the Connacht Cup while the **Ladies' Rugby** team almost dethroned University Kingpins the University of Limerick in the Intersvarsity League in a thrilling final which went down to the wire.

Golf Scholarship holders Damien McDonough and Joe Lyons made the final two rounds of the prestigious **Boyd Quaich International Tournament** held at the home of golf, St Andrews. Joe had an excellent 7th place finish.

Finally, Charlie Prendergast from Mayo, a Sports Scholarship Student, has recently signed for a new **professional cycling** team "Polygon Sweet Nice", an Indonesian-backed team based here in Ireland.



RESEARCH IN ACTION

From the lab to the library archives, our researchers produce work that has an impact on the world around us. Over the past three months, the following research stories have made the headlines.

REMEDI is leading a major new partnership with the Irish Blood Transfusion Service to provide **access to revolutionary new cell-based therapies**. The initial focus will be on stem cell manufacturing, and using regenerative medicine to treat a range of illnesses including arthritis, burns and diabetic wounds. “It has the potential to provide patients in Ireland with new, ground-breaking therapies,” according to Professor Frank Barry (REMEDI).

In a separate study, researchers at REMEDI are working with Cardium Therapeutics to utilise their Excellagen® gel as part of a **potential treatment for diabetic foot ulcers**. The gel is being used in pre-clinical studies as a delivery agent for a proprietary stromal cell therapy developed by Orbsen Therapeutics.

A **major report on Irish children’s health behaviour** has discovered that more children are reporting high life satisfaction levels. The report also found that fewer children today are smoking or drinking compared with previous studies. Despite many positive results, Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn (Health Promotion Research Centre), who led the national study, cautions that “still more needs to be done to improve their health, in particular around physical activity.”

Fourteen marine scientists, led by Dr Louise Allcock (Zoology), recently returned to Galway following a three-week **deep sea research survey** aboard the Marine Institute’s *RV Celtic Explorer*. Their survey investigated a wide diversity of habitats and underwater communities in the Whittard Canyon system on the Irish Atlantic margin. Pictured above is one of the rare hydroids they discovered there.

Dr. John Walsh (Gaeilge) is involved in a new cross-European research project, which aims to document ways in which minority languages such as Irish are acquired by non-traditional means and in non-traditional settings. The **New Speakers in a Multilingual Europe** project is examining the potentially important role that ‘new speakers’ can play in the future of these languages.

A new collaboration between Microbiology and Earth and Ocean Sciences is **searching for microbial life in ancient rock types** called evaporites. The Geomicrobiology Research Group has successfully recovered DNA from recent samples found in Death Valley, California. The group, which includes Professor Martin Feely, Dr Alessandra Costanzo (both from Earth and Ocean Sciences) and Dr Cindy Smith (Microbiology), has already presented their findings to collaborating universities around Europe.

A research partnership between the School of Nursing and Midwifery and three UK universities has found that **women who receive midwife care throughout their pregnancy have better outcomes**. Researchers found that the women were less likely to give birth pre-term and required fewer interventions during labour and birth. According to Professor Declan Devane (Nursing and Midwifery), “other countries are using this to inform their maternity care policy and Ireland should do likewise.”

Researchers in the School of Political Science and Sociology are leading the Irish arm of an international project addressing **the problem of child to parent violence**. According to Declan Coogan, a lecturer in the School, “social workers, psychotherapists, and others working with families across a range of services have pointed to the need for greater awareness and for skills development when faced with child to parent violence.”

Researchers at the University’s HRB Clinical Research Facility have been conducting free blood pressure checks for people with sleep problems. The study, in association with the charity *Croí*, is part of ongoing research into **reducing the risk of a heart attack or stroke**. Recent research has shown that poor sleep can increase the risk of high blood pressure and obesity, which are major risk factors for the diseases.



From Syria to Turkey and Brazil, international news stories are broken by ordinary citizens on social media every day. Despite the widespread use of social media here, no formal study into Irish media professionals' use of social media has yet been carried out. Our researchers at INSIGHT (formerly DERI), Ireland's leading data analytics research centre, have launched the first **national survey on how Irish journalists use social media**. This new study aims to determine the role sites like Twitter and Facebook play in the modern Irish newsroom.



A recent **archaeological dig at Caherconnell Cashel** in the Burren has helped uncover the secret past of this large drystone settlement. Dr Michelle Comber (Archaeology and Centre for Irish Studies) has been leading students in fieldwork at the site since 2010. This year's dig unearthed numerous artefacts including arrowheads, bronze pins and bone combs, as well as two slab-built burial boxes called cists. These artefacts are significant as they show that the cashel had been deliberately constructed on top of an earlier burial mound. The human remains will be sent for radiocarbon dating to discover when the bodies were buried.



Psychology PhD student, Jenny Groarke, aims to discover **whether music can enhance well-being in old age**. A musician herself, Jenny is using focus groups of 18-30 year olds and 60-85 year olds to explore the benefits of music listening. "Music has long been known to give rise to positive feelings, memories and emotions," she explains. "People of all ages listen to music to cope with the stresses of everyday life, they listen to music to connect with others in social situations, and those who are isolated say they often listen to music to reduce feelings of loneliness."

Read more on these stories by searching:
nuigalway.ie/about-us/news-and-events/news-archive



CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, SEMINARS

Our events bring together experts in a wide range of fields to share their knowledge. Here are some of the research gatherings that took place recently on campus.

June

'Voice and Choice' was the theme of the fifth **International Disability Summer School** hosted by the Centre for Disability Law and Policy. It is the largest such summer school in the world and attracted delegates from 39 countries (pictured above). Over a week of talks and seminars, they discussed the UN disability treaty and how it can be used to secure a voice and advance choices for people with disabilities around the world.

An international exploratory workshop **on information and communications technology and environmental regulation** was convened by Rónán Kennedy (Law). Delegates addressed a wide range of related topics, including real-time monitoring of air pollution through sensors; large-scale databases on the health of rivers, lakes and beaches; and satellite-based monitoring of farming patterns.

A symposium on **Innovative Clinical Study Design for Medical Devices** was organised by the Biostatistics Unit at the HRB Clinical Research Facility, the Ignite Technology Transfer Office and Metric Ireland. The keynote speaker, Dr Gregory Campbell from the Food and Drugs Administration, addressed the audience on innovation in clinical study design and new guidance documents recently developed in the FDA.

Tháinig 26 toiscaire as deich dtír Eorpach le chéile ag Ionad Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta i gCarna chun ardán nuálach idirlín a chuireann foghlaim teangacha chun cinn a phlé. Bhí an **crúinniú tionscadail idirnáisiúnta dhá lá dírithe ar an bhfeidhmchlár ClipFair**, a tacaíonn le foghlaim teangacha trí úsáid a bhaint as athghuthú agus as fotheidealú.

A **workshop aimed at tackling a disease threatening bee hives** was held in the University in conjunction with Irish company Advance Science. The workshop brought together beekeepers from around Ireland to show how the Nosema parasite can be identified and fought against. Nosemosis is strongly linked with Colony Collapse Disorder, which kills one in every three hives around the world every year.

July

Over ten days, the **Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy Summer School** encouraged filmmakers to engage with pressing human rights issues. According to Rod Stoneman, Director of the Huston School of Film and Digital Media which hosted the event, "film is a key tool in communicating across borders and cultures, and because of this, it can play a critical role in highlighting key human rights issues and promoting basic freedom around the world."

August

Over two weeks, the University hosted the 2013 International Debate Education Association (IDEA) **Global Youth Forum**. Young debaters from 48 countries shared their thoughts and ideas on the theme of Digital Freedom. The main focus of the event, organised in cooperation with the Literary and Debating Society, was cultural exchange. For the debating competition, participants were mixed in geographically diverse teams, giving them the chance to meet and work with peers from across the world.

The Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit (SEMRU) hosted their annual **Beaufort Marine Socio-Economic Forum**, which focused this year on valuing the ocean and coastal economies. The wide range of topics covered by speakers included: maritime freight transport models; employment in the seafood production sector; and port policy in Ireland.

September

The first IAIS **Workshop on Cloud Computing Research** was hosted by the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, attracting delegates from industry and academia to discuss the newest research in this growing field. According to Dr Tom Acton (Business Information Systems) the event was successful in refining the impacts of cloud computing on business

strategies. In September 2013, the University began a new Masters degree in Cloud Computing Research, which is already helping to shape the national agenda.

Professor Leslie Nathanson (Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Queensland) was the main speaker at the 38th **Sir Peter Freyer Memorial Lecture and Surgical Symposium**. Professor Nathanson is internationally renowned for his ground-breaking research that has led to improvements in gastrointestinal surgery. The State of the Art lecture at this year's symposium was delivered by Professor Patrick Broe (Beaumont Hospital, Dublin) who focused on the future of Irish surgery.

The School of Law hosted the **Annual Conference of the Local Authority Solicitors Bar Association (LASBA)**, linking academics and practitioners in a review of current issues in local government law. The Association represents in-house solicitors employed by Local Authorities around the country.

The **Inaugural Economics of Cancer Symposium** was hosted by Professor Ciarán O'Neill, Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law and included expert speakers from

Ireland, Europe and the USA. At the symposium, economists from the College presented findings from their research into the impact of socio-economics on cancer screening uptake. While cervical cancer is known to be more prevalent among those from lower socio-economic groups, uptake of screening in Ireland, England and the US all evidenced a pro-rich inequality.

Minister Seán Sherlock TD was the keynote speaker at the two-day conference on **'People, Policy, Places and the Economy'**. His address was entitled *What Ireland Needs and How Universities Can Help*, and opened up a discussion about the challenges the country faces in emerging from its current economic woes.

What type of transport system should Galway have? Where and how should the city develop? These were the types of questions raised at the recent **Galway 2040 – Infrastructure and Environment Seminar**. Delegates were treated to virtual images of how the city might look in the future, created by campus-based company RealSim. The seminar is one in a series, designed to focus attention on how we can shape the city for the better over the next three decades.

Tony Juniper delivered the **Royal Irish Academy lecture** recently hosted by the Ryan Institute. The widely regarded environmental campaigner argued that environmental protection is not a luxury that can be put aside in recessionary times. Rather, his view is that wealth and economic growth are utterly dependent on Nature's essential services.

US entrepreneur and innovator, Sonal Shah, delivered a **keynote address on civic and social innovation** hosted by the Community Knowledge Initiative. Shah, who has advised the US government, Google and Goldman Sachs on the social innovation agenda, shared her pathway into a career in social innovation with the audience, and expressed what social innovation means to her.

On Friday 20th September, the Archives Service joined cultural groups from across Ireland in celebrating **Culture Night** by hosting a special evening talk by guest speaker, author Felicity Hayes-McCoy, on the connection between The Gathering of 2013 and the original Tóstal events of the 1950s. There was also a showcase of digitised material from the Professor G.A. Hayes-McCoy archive, former Chair of History at the University and advisor and writer on the Tóstal events.

View our upcoming conferences at: www.conference.ie



1. Gráinne McGrath, Blaneth McSharry, Margaret Forde and Dr Sharon Flynn from CELT, who organised the Blackboard Festival in August – a week-long series of workshops and demonstrations to help staff make the most of Blackboard's features to support their teaching.

2. Pictured at the Ryan Institute's Annual Research Day are Tony Juniper, UK Sustainability campaigner and author; Professor Martin Cormican, Professor Colin Brown and Dr Martina Prendergast (Ryan Institute); and Dr Cathal Gallagher, Inland Fisheries Ireland.

3. At the Inaugural IAIS Workshop on Cloud Computing Research David Waldron (CloudStrong), Emmet Donnelly (SourceDogg), Gary Ramsay (Dimension Data), Dr Tom Acton (Business Information Systems), Lorraine Morgan (Lero), Dr Kieran Conboy (J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics), Chris Coughlan (Hewlett-Packard), and Vikas Sahni (Version 1).

Bem-Vindos to Our New Brazilian Students



Did you know more international students are enrolled in NUI Galway than any other Irish University? September saw over 100 Brazilian students joining our ranks. The Brazilian Deputy Ambassador, Elza Moreira Marcelino de Castro, was on campus to welcome the students in a reception that coincided with Brazil's National Independence Day. To date, 140 students from 69 universities throughout Brazil have been accepted to study a range of modules here, from Anatomy to Zoology. Dr Brian Hughes, Dean of International Affairs, said: "We have proven to be the university of choice in Ireland for Brazilian students, and we hope that our Brazilian family will grow and grow!"

NFB Partnership Secures Chinese Funding

The University's Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB), in partnership with Dalian University in China, recently secured funding for research examining the potential of new sugar-coated antibody drugs. Dr Gerard Wall will be the University's coordinator of the four-year project, which is funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China. According to Dr Wall, "This support will enable us to develop improved, longer-lived biopharmaceuticals using cutting edge protein engineering approaches. The award also establishes an important strategic link between biosciences research at NUI Galway and a major Chinese University and Medical School."

UNESCO Chair Renewed

The University's UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement – the Republic of Ireland's only UNESCO Research Chair – was given a huge vote of confidence recently, when it was renewed for another four years. The Chair will continue to pursue high quality research in the field, aimed at addressing and informing the UNESCO agenda. Professor Pat Dolan believes that the Chair will "continue to act as a 'bridge-builder' by bringing together centres of excellence, NGOs and practitioners from around the world to work as partners in setting future education, research and policy agendas."



Pictured at the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre's lecture to mark the 50th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity were: Alan Kerins from the Alan Kerins Projects; Ethiopian Ambassador H.E. Mrs Lela-alem Gebreyohannes Tedla; Dr Brian Hughes, Dean of International Affairs; Nigerian Ambassador H.E. Mr Felix Yusufu Pwof; Professor Pat Dolan, UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre and Dr Seán Campbell, CEO of Foróige.

Breakfast Near Tiffany's



A group of Executive MBA students recently took part in a week-long Global Gateway Programme at Fordham University, in New York. Pictured at a special Breakfast Panel organised by the Galway University Foundation in the city were: Dr Alma McCarthy, Executive MBA Programme Director; Gemma Leddy, Director Wealth Services, O'Connor Davies; Sean McCooey, Managing Partner, Pulteney Street Capital; Seán Lane, Senior VP, US Trust; Adrian Jones, Goldman Sachs; and Edel Robinson, Executive MBA student.

'Floating University' Students Visit Galway

Students from the floating university 'Semester at Sea' programme visited Galway recently on a collaborative marine science field-trip led by this University and the Strategic Marine Alliance for Research and Training (SMART). Over 570 students from 20 different countries were aboard the *MV Explorer* which docked in Dublin last week. The Galway field trip was led by Dr Rachel Cave (Earth and Ocean Sciences) who said: "Through the SMART partnership programme, and the Marine Institute's research vessel funding programme, Ireland has very much become a leader in practical offshore training in marine science and technology."

Sharing Cancer Expertise Internationally

Dr Micheál Newell (Surgery) recently attended the world renowned Rocky Mountain Cancer Institute at the University of Northern Colorado. The institute is recognised as a frontrunner in cancer rehabilitation, especially in their follow-up treatment through prescriptive exercise rehabilitation and nutritional intervention. Dr Newell successfully completed their training programme and is now certified as a Cancer Exercise Specialist.

Páirtnéireacht Nua Idir an Ollscoil agus TG4



Beidh seans ag mic léinn an BA agus MA/ Diplóma Iarchéime sa Chumarsáid in Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge a gcuid cláracha agus coincheapaí físe a thabhairt chun forbartha do sceideal TG4 amach anseo. Cinnteoidh an pháirtnéireacht nua seo go mbeidh seans ag glúin nua chruthaitheach a gcuid scileanna scríbhneoireachta, láithreoireachta, ceamara agus eagarthóireachta a chur os comhair lucht féachana náisiúnta.

Súil Eile

TG4 have already committed to showing up to three programmes produced by our students. The documentary *Mayo God Help Us*, which aired in September, explores the so-called 'curse' on Mayo football. Other programmes will study the lives of Ireland's deep-sea fishermen and Connemara's young female boxers. Last year, in a pilot version of the scheme, a documentary called *Buscáil* by postgraduate Cumarsáid student, Fearghal Ó Maollagáin, was broadcast on the channel to great acclaim.

Leabharlann Dheasúin Bhreatnaigh Bronnta ar an Ollscoil

Bhronn iníon an scríbhneora, Deasún Breatnach, cnuasach leabhar Gaeilge a hathar ar Ionad Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge ar an gCeathrú Rua le déanaí. Tá isteach is amach le 750 leabhar faoi stair, litríocht, chultúr agus shaíocht na tíre sa leabharlann luachmhar seo. Beidh na leabhair mar chuid de shainbhailiúchán a bheidh in úsáid ag mic léinn an BA sa Chumarsáid le linn a gcuid staidéir. Scríbhneoir, iriseoir, file, intleachtóir, poblachtach agus gníomhaí ab ea Deasún Breatnach a rugadh i mBaile Átha Cliath i 1922 agus a cailleadh sa bhliain 2007.

OurSpace Community Filmmaking with COPE Galway

Two short films produced by clients of COPE Galway in conjunction with the Huston School of Film & Digital Media were recently presented at the Galway City Museum. These are the first productions of the ongoing *OurSpace* community filmmaking project, the aim of which is to provide community groups with the skills to visually express their relationship to the spaces of their everyday lives. The films are the product of a community filmmaking workshop series run by Dr Conn Holohan. The films focus on the Corrib Salmon Weir in the heart of Galway City and the Waterside House Refuge, which provides safe accommodation for women and children who have experienced an abusive relationship. For Professor Rod Stoneman, Director of the Huston School of Film & Digital Media, 'this initiative is an exciting example of a modern university supporting community access to the media and enabling people to speak for themselves.'

Awards for IEEE Consumer Electronics Magazine



The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers' magazine, edited Dr Peter Corcoran (Engineering and Informatics), recently won five Apex awards for publication excellence. An article by Dr Corcoran was awarded the Grand Award for its feature on tablet reparability and sustainability.

School Kids Do Science On-Screen



ReelLife Science, a novel Science video competition, was recently launched in over 300 primary and secondary schools by a team of staff and students. Conceived by Dr Enda O'Connell (NCBES), the EXPLORE project invites schoolchildren to submit short videos on the theme of science. The main aim is to get children hands-on with science, in fun and creative ways. The videos will be judged by a panel of expert scientists. As well as sharing in a prize fund of €1,000, the winning videos will be shown at November's Science and Technology Festival.

New Books

Cleaner Combustion: Developing Detailed Chemical Kinetic Models, co-edited by Emeritus Professor John M. Simmie (School of Chemistry), draws together the results of a four year research collaboration between 22 European countries.

MCQs in Travel Medicine, by Dom Colbert (retired staff), is specifically written for those preparing for exams in travel medicine.

Saltair Saíochta, Sanasaíochta agus Seanchais, curtha in eagar ag Dónall Ó Baoill, Donncha Ó hAodha agus Nollaig Ó Muraile (Scoil na Gaeilge), in ómós do Ghearóid Mac Eoin. Is cnuasach aistí atá sa leabhar seo ar ábhair éagsúla a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge agus leis na teangacha Ceilteacha eile.

Ré Órga na nGael, Joseph Cooper Walker (1761-1810) le Lesa Ní Mhungaile (Scoil na Gaeilge). Cur síos ar shaoil agus ar shaothar an fhir léinn, a chaith a shaoil ag staidéar chultúr ársa na hÉireann.

Making Maths Fun



Sixth class primary pupils at the School of Education's four-day Maths Summer Camp spell out their new favourite subject. Later, the School of Mathematics celebrated Maths Week in October with a week of activities and workshops for school children.

New Courses | Cúrsaí nua

A new one-year **Diploma in Sales and Marketing for Medical Technologies**, sponsored by LifeSciences Skillnet, has been designed to give out-of-work engineers and business professionals the skills required to take up work in the med-tech sector.

Sheol an tAire Stáit, Donnchadh Mac Fhionnlaioich, **Dioplóma nua sa Phleanáil agus Buanú Teanga** in Ionad OÉ Gaillimh, Gaoth Dobhair, le déanaí. Cúrsa páirtaimseartha thar dhá bhliain atá i gceist leis. Dar le Dónall Ó Braonáin, Príomhfheidhmeannach an Acadaimh, "Beidh scoth na tacaíochta foghlama ag mic léinn an chúrsa seo agus beidh sé feiliúnach dóibh siúd ar spéis leo ceist na pleanála teanga a scrúdú ar bhealach solúbtha agus saoraídeach."

The **Dioplóma Gairmiúil San Oideachas (DGO)** has become the first 1:1 iPad Initial Teacher Education (ITE) programme in Europe. This unique programme is aimed at making the most of iPads in the classroom. The programme is already attracting attention from other institutions in Europe and the US.

Promoting Health

The DAFNE team in University Hospital Galway have completed their **education programme for people with type 1 diabetes**, teaching them how best to manage their diet and insulin intake. The results were so successful, that the team have been awarded further funding by the HRB to begin a new programme aimed at young adults.

Meanwhile, at a **special diabetes screening** day organised by the School of Medicine, a total of 137 members of staff were screened for the condition. Most people were either in the low or moderate risk categories, but 4% were found to be at high risk.

In August, researchers, staff and students began collaborating on ways of **fighting resistance to antibiotics**, one of the world's most pressing health concerns. The EXPLORE project called 'Antibiotics on Campus' is led by researchers in the Disciplines of General Practice, Marketing and Economics. At a special event on campus, participants developed a map for addressing the problem around the University. They also took part in a special video diary highlighting key issues from the event.

News in tweets

@all_app_fans The #Eurapp study is seeking ideas to boost the growth of the app economy in the EU. www.eurapp.eu

@galway_golfers Mullingar Golf Club won the recent #GolfCycle organised by staff and students to launch www.defibme.ie

@theatre_goers The CUBE hosted five intriguing plays as part of the #GalwayFringeFestival, featuring current and past students.

@calling_all_coders #CodeNinja is back on campus. Get your students creating apps. Email clodagh.barry@nuigalway.ie for more details

@pet_lovers Mary Ryan's annual coffee morning for Galway animal rescue charities raised a total of €1193. #bigthankyou

@ceoltóirí_an_champais Tá na seisiúin traid i gCaifé Áras na Gaeilge ar siúl arís. Gach Céadaoin, am lóin. #CaifeAgusCeol

@open_day_tripppers A big thank you to all staff who took part in October's Open Day. Approximately 8,000 students and parents attended the two-day event.

Staff and Students Think Outside the Box



Pictured at the Enterprise Ireland 'Think Outside the Box' Awards were: Mary Dempsey, College of Engineering and Informatics; Aidan Breen, Engineering student; Captain Brian Sheridan, Galway Harbour Master; Simon Casey, Engineering student; and Barry Egan, Enterprise Ireland. The awards are aimed at encouraging students' entrepreneurial flair. Aidan and Simon won €1,500 for their project 'SmartGate' which involved designing and prototyping an environmentally-friendly, energy-efficient dockgate that would be automatically controlled through mobile technology applications. Mary Dempsey was awarded the Academic Prize of €2,000 for the high quality of her College's projects and for her commitment to the awards.

School of Physics wins Gender Equality Award



At her recent public lecture organised by the Astronomy Society, the world-renowned astrophysicist, Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell, congratulated the School of Physics on receiving the Juno Practitioner Award for Gender Equality. While women make up 20% of physics undergraduates across Ireland and the UK, this number drops to 7% of professors. The Juno Programme aims to proactively address the imbalance. NUI Galway is the first university in Ireland to be recognised in this way, according to Chair of the University's Juno Committee, Dr Miriam Byrne (Physics).

MIT Innovation Award

Dr Eoin Whelan (Business Information Systems) is the winner of the prestigious 2013 Richard Beckhard Memorial Prize awarded by MIT's *Sloan Technology Review* for co-authoring the 'most outstanding' article published on Enterprise Social Media. The authors identified the key distinction between 'idea scouts' who introduce new ideas and 'idea connectors' who help make them a reality. According to Dr Whelan, "The research is of particular benefit to senior managers and R&D leaders to identify, encourage and reward the idea scouts and connectors for their work in bringing ideas to life."

NFB Student Wins Microscopy Award

Biosciences PhD researcher, Yvonne Lang, was recently awarded the 'Best Oral Presentation in the Life Sciences' at the Microscopy Society of Ireland's annual symposium. Yvonne's research focuses on the use of ornate algae called diatoms as structural templates for biomaterials. She is co-supervised by Professor Abhay Pandit, Director of the NFB, whose goal is to harness such natural resources to prepare biocompatible structures for drug delivery.

David Harvey launches Neil Smith Award

A special award for graduate researchers in memory of former Professor Neil Smith who passed away last year was officially launched on campus by Professor David Harvey. Renowned geographers and anthropologists, Professors Smith and Harvey, worked together in the City University of New York, and Professor

Smith has acted as external examiner for this University's Geography students in the past. Dr John Morrissey (Geography) paid his respects, saying: "Neil was an inspirational colleague, and this award is a great testament to not only Neil as a person but also to the huge legacy and continued relevance of his life's work."

Power Electronics Award

Professor Ger Hurley (Electrical and Electronic Engineering) was presented with the prestigious Middlebrook Outstanding Technical Achievement Award at a recent ceremony in Denver, Colorado. The award honours an individual who has given outstanding contributions to the field of power electronics. Professor Hurley received the award in acknowledgement of his pioneering contributions to high frequency magnetic design.

International Undergraduate Awards

Four NUI Galway students are winners of the 2013 Undergraduate Awards - an international academic awards programme that identifies top students across the globe through their innovative undergraduate research. Winners were selected from almost 4,000 submissions from 180 institutions worldwide. They were awarded for the following categories: Marcus Byrne in Classical and Archaeology; Aisling Ní Churraighín in Irish Language, Literature and Folklore; Khai El Baba Jones in Philosophical Studies and Theology; and John Birrane in Psychology. John's essay also won the overall international award.



Medical graduate and Draíocht society founder, Melanie Hennessy, was presented with the CKI's Clinical Science Gold Medal for Community Contribution at summer conferring.



Dr Anna Soler with members of the Irish Seaweed Research Group: Alex Wan, Benoit Quéguineur, Dr Richard Walsh and Dr Liam Morrison, following the presentation of the first Ryan Institute Award for Selfless Cooperation to Dr Soler.

Increased Mobility for Staff and Students

Three projects recently completed by ISS will provide greater mobility options to students and staff. Student email has been upgraded to **Microsoft Office 365**, a platform providing additional features, enhanced reliability, and a more generous storage limit. Students will now also have access to 7GB of storage via the Cloud. The **EduRoam** service was launched in collaboration with GMIT, and now provides our staff and students with access to wi-fi at participating Higher Education institutions in over 60 countries, using their NUI Galway username and password. ISS in collaboration with CELT also upgraded to **Blackboard version 9.1**, which includes a new mobile application platform available on most mobile phones and devices. These upgrades will help make it easier for staff and students to work and learn while on the go.



ISS staff Pat Dempsey, Head of Education and Research; Conor McMahon, Head of Operations; and Tom Regan, Network Architect and EduRoam Project Manager.

Work Begins on New Medical Research Facility



The new €20m Clinical Research Facility and Translational Research Facility has commenced on the grounds of University Hospital Galway. It will facilitate cutting-edge medical research side-by-side with patient care, and encourage the sharing of medical expertise between our Health Sciences students and hospital staff. The construction period is expected to be 16 months, with 125 construction jobs created at its peak.

Other buildings

The finishing touches are being added to the Biosciences Research Building at the north end of the campus. Landscaping around the building has been completed, and much of the interior has already been fitted out. Close by, construction is well under way on the new Lifecourse Institute. The two buildings will transform the north end of the campus, creating a major hub for the University's researchers.

€400k for Agri-Food Projects

Two new partnerships with Teagasc have been funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. **Join-to-Farm** aims to explore how new farming ventures could help women farmers, older and younger farmers to access supports, resources and skills. Meanwhile, **Agile-Tech** seeks to understand how new technologies are used by Irish farmers.

8x8 Documentary Film Festival

A new documentary film festival focused on global development issues took place on campus recently, in association with the charity Suas Educational Development, the NUI Galway Suas Society and the Huston School of Film and Digital Media. The festival featured a line-up of award winning documentaries from across the globe, as well as workshops and panel discussions, including a special guest appearance from the UK-based producer of *Which Way is the Front Line from Here?*, James Brabazon.

HR Update

PMDS

By now you and your line manager should have received training in the new Performance Management and Development System (PMDS). Line managers are asked to complete PMDS promptly with all of their team members, and to submit the results to HR. For help with procedures, documents, training queries and FAQs on the system, please visit: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/staff-development/performance/management/>



1. Launching the new free Helplink app that enables users to book health and leisure appointments 24 hours a day: Seán Coleman, graduate and app creator; Dr Owen Molloy, Information Technology; and Lochlann Scott, MD of Helplink.

2. Fundraisers for the Irish Cancer Society pictured on a behind-the-scenes tour of the NCBES labs in the Orbsen Building. The group of women from Co. Donegal have raised over €600k to fund cancer research.

3. Just some of the handmade brooches created by the NUI Galway Knit and Crochet Group, and on sale around campus in aid of Heart Children Ireland.

Making 'Going to College' Possible



The 'Going to College' initiative – a pioneering project aimed at supporting people with intellectual disabilities to study at NUI Galway – has received a major boost from its community partners. Representatives (pictured above) from the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies, including Ability West, Brothers of Charity, and Western Care have shown their strong commitment to the initiative by agreeing to provide direct funding over the coming year.

Open Doors



Marina Wild (Arts and Theatre Office) sheds light on the art collection in the President's Dining Room to members of the public. Marina's tour was one of the events organised on campus as part of the Open House Galway Festival.



Registrar and Deputy President, Professor Nollaig Mac Congáil, rushes to his next meeting on one of the University's new SPIN bikes. You too can hire the bikes at eight stations across campus, by simply registering for the year for €10. All trips under 30 minutes are free!

Register for SPIN at: www.grandscheme.co.uk/galway

ALLS TO

Desktop Diary

October 2013							November 2013							December 2013						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	19	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30	31					

Just some of the events to look out for on campus over the next three months.

October, 24: Staff Social Club Hallowe'en Party. Some tricks and lots of treats at this informal gathering in 37 West. Food and refreshments, from 6pm.

November 5: Postgraduate Open Day, 12-4pm in the Bailey Allen Hall. See what the University has to offer our research and taught postgrads.

November 20: EXPLORE 'Kick Off' event, Aula Maxima, from 12.30. Explore this year's innovative staff-student projects.

Nov 22 - Dec 20: *Taking Note or The Curious Eye*, an exhibition curated by Robin Jones in the Art Gallery, the Quadrangle. A variety of works on the theme of noticing and taking note. More information at: nuigalway.ie/arts_office

November 24: Science and Technology Festival exhibition on campus. Encouraging kids to 'explore the extraordinary' in science.

Nov 28 - Feb 1: *The Risen People*, at the Abbey Theatre. As part of the University's partnership with the Abbey, staff can ask for a special discount of 10% on tickets from the box office.

November 29: Space & Sound free lunchtime concert. Award-winning *ConTempo Quartet* in the award-winning Engineering Building. Tour of building afterwards.

December 10: Horizon 2020 opens. The first call for applications will be launched by the EU. Contact Clodagh Barry to get involved.